



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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President's Report

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In this report I would like to give members some idea of the projects currently being worked on by CZSG members that are likely to produce handbooks. In addition to keeping you advised about what is in progress, it is my hope that this will stimulate some of you to develop a topic of your own. These are listed in decreasing degree of completeness, with the author or primary contributor listed in parentheses. The titles are designed to convey the subject matter, and are not necessarily the titles that will be used in the published version. First, there are manuscripts for which a first draft, at least, has already been submitted to the CZSG Publication Committee for review. This committee helps the CZSG and the author decide on the appropriateness of a suggested topic, and reviews the manuscript when it is written.

* First Day Covers and Cachets (Robert Karrer)

* Canal Zone Aerophilately (David Leeds)

* Canal Zone Announcement Cards (Cary Finder; this may be published as a handbook or serially in *The Canal Zone Philatelist*)

Second, there are topics on which work has been started but which vary from nearly complete to barely started.

* Postal Rates in the Canal Zone (Bradley Wilde)

* Type III Mt. Hope Overprints (Tom Brougham; a revision and amplification of the material in the early CZSG handbook by Philler)

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Meeting Notices

Regional Meetings of the CZSG will be held at **SESCAL '95**, Los Angeles, CA Sunday afternoon October 8 and at **ARIPEX '96**, Mesa, AZ Saturday afternoon, January 6. For time and place check at the show.

The Bliss Postage Due Provisionals Reviewed

by Paul J. Kravitz

Pedro Miguel was one of the original French towns established in the central southwest portion of the Canal Zone. During the construction period Pedro Miguel was a "silver employees", or laborers, town. Twice a month when West Indies mail arrived at Cristobal there were literally hundreds of postage due letters to distribute to the several towns.

[Editor's note: The probable number of postage due letters was seriously considered by our reviewers. While Kravitz contended that there were "thousands", reviewers of this article calculated (based on survival rate, post office receipts, and parallel West Indies experience) that the number was "maybe 100's" per month.]

The arrival of mail from the West Indies is documented by an examination of the published sailing and arrival schedules for Cristobal. The Royal Mail Steamship line had semi-monthly sailings between Colon and Barbados, with a stop at Trinidad. Royal Mail and the Hamburg American Line each had semi-monthly runs between Kingston and Colon. That Hamburg American carried mail has not been researched. Also, schedules were probably arranged to meet at Colon, accounting for the twice a month surge of incoming mail.

To complicate matters, there were few individual postal boxes available at this time, and since there would have been a rental charge, there were probably none used by silver employees. In any case, a rental fee would have been prohibitive. Thus, almost all mail was distributed at the general delivery window by the Postmaster or his assistants, a normal practice even in the U.S. at this period. At Pedro Miguel the Postmaster was Gerald D. Bliss.

According to Bliss¹, panes of stamps were handstamped during the days prior to the semi-monthly mail arrivals using a device that read "POSTAGE DUE". Bliss also estimated that less than one

percent of the incoming mail was franked with any postage. The poor families of the Canal laborers living in the Caribbean, South America, and as far away as Italy and India seldom had the resources to pay the foreign postage rate. The laborers, many of whom were illiterate, were earning a relatively large sum of money. They could afford the postage due fee, and gladly paid the sum to receive the latest news of their family at home.

A fee of 10¢ was charged on single weight letters from foreign locales destined for the Canal Zone which were totally unpaid. Universal Postal Union regulations required that double the deficiency was due on international mail. The foreign prepaid rate from the British West Indies to the Canal Zone was usually 2½d, equal to 5¢ U.S. The 10¢ fee was not all that cheap considering general prices at that time. Ten cents would have purchased a pound of stew meat (beef, veal, or lamb), or 2½ 1-pound loaves of bread (not wrapped and unsliced). However, it was the cost of communication with home for workers who would not accrue vacation time and could not afford to leave the Isthmus until the completion of their labors.

The stamps used by Bliss to denote payment of postage dues are rare, either on or off cover. This can be explained by the normal practice of the laborers, who retained their personal letters and discarded the envelopes.

While reviewing my exhibit in order to update the information for its next showing, I took a closer look at the photocopies, data, and new material collected in my top desk drawer. My findings suggest that there are three types of the "Bliss Provisional Postage Dues" (BPPD) rather than the two previously described. These postage due

(Continued on page 23)

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Two columns, five inches	35.00

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Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to David J. Leeds, P.O. Box 491472, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Manuscripts should be typed double space or printed copy. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or phone the Editor: (310) 472-0282. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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CZSG Member Honored

CZSG Member John Fagan and his wife Donna were recognized at the Annual Appreciation Dinner held March 5, 1995, as the Greater Milwaukee Area Distinguished Philatelist. They were selected "because they have visibly and repeatedly demonstrated their interest in the hobby of stamp collecting and in developing interest and enjoyment of the hobby for others."

Movie Review

by David L. Farnsworth

Panama Canal, writer and producer Andy Thomas, produced by Jaffe Productions and Hearst Entertainment Television in association with A&E Networks, 1994, available from A&E Home Video (PO Box 2284, South Burlington, VT 05407; 1-800-828-6565), 50 minute documentary in A&E's Modern Marvels series of tapes, VHS format, ISBN 1-56501-243-7, \$19.95.

The film is broken up into seven chronological parts each with its heading for easy note taking. The first — "Ambitious Men" — talks about European explorers and the failed French attempt. The second part — "I Took the Isthmus" — covers President T. Roosevelt and John Steven's tenure. Robert Dill (1889-1993), a construction worker on the canal, is introduced and talks about his memories of the construction. He was 104 years old when he was interviewed. The video is dedicated to his memory. His reminiscing is one of the best aspects of the film. He shows his Roosevelt Medal, number 6726.

The third part — "Digging In" — describes the sanitation efforts and shows some nice film of the continuously moving trains being loaded and unloaded with a plow-like device. The dangers from dynamite and trains and the great noise of the diggings are described. The fourth part — "The Waters Flow" — finishes the

construction story, sets the opening at the beginning of World War I, and describes the Great Depression's effects on the canal and the Canal Zone.

The fifth part — "Dangerous Time" — deals with the canal's importance for U.S. naval power during World War II and efforts to protect the canal from attack and sabotage. The Flag Riot of 1964 is highlighted. The sixth part — "The Care of the Canal" — discusses dredging and widening, pilots, engines ("mules") used to pull ships through the locks, size of the operation, and so forth. Finally, the seventh part — "Connections to Greatness" — contains concluding comments.

This documentary is somewhat substandard. My main complaints are its overblown language and superficiality. Nothing is simple. For example, the construction period was "Mother Nature's last stand", ships transit the canal in a "masterpiece of choreography", and on and on. The video covers the time period from Columbus to about 1965, so it can hit only the obvious topics. The unnamed narrator's voice with its overemphasis and drama is aggravating. The video reminds me of the films I was shown in school in the 5th or 6th grade, decades ago. Many film clips are shown more than once — one I noticed three times. Finally, some of the clips have little relationship to the narrator's story or are out of place historically.

CANAL ZONE STUDY GROUP 1994 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue:	1994 dues earned:	\$8,614
Sales:	Books: <i>Canal Zone Stamps</i>	\$1,024
	Other publications	191
	Advertising - CZP : mailing labels	330
	Interest on checking (NOW) account	1,479
	Mail Sale proceeds (Note)	5,137
	Total revenue	16,775
Expenses:	CZP printing, postage, editorial	6,124
	Membership, publicity, administration	4,819
	Other publications - printing, binding	2,675
	Advertisement- Scott catalogue	280
	Total expenses	(13,898)
	Revenue over expenses for the year 1994	2,877
Net Assets:	1 January 1994	61,782
	31 December 1994: Cash in NOW account	\$72,671
	Less: 1995 dues received in advance	(8,012)
		\$64,659

As of December 31, there were no outstanding unpaid bills. Dues are reported as income in the year to which they relate. Proceeds from the Mail Sale are reported as income in the year the sale is held.

Note: Mail Sale No. 23 results:	
Lots sold	\$94,010
Less payment to sellers	(84,609)
Net (10%) to CZSG	\$9,401
Expenses:	
Printing	1,906
Postage	1,487
Other	871
Net proceeds to CZSG (above)	(4,264)
	\$5,137

Richard F. Larkin, Treasurer

President's Report

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- * American Bank Note Company Archive Specimens (James Crumpacker, David Leeds, Gary Weiss, and David Zemer)
 - * QSL Radio "Ham" Cards (David Leeds)
 - * Panama Railroad Steamship Line (David Leeds)
 - * Military Post Offices (George Consentini, Bob Karrer, David Leeds)
 - * Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone (Irwin Gibbs; a new edition of the handbook published by the United Postal Stationery Society that will incorporate discoveries since the first edition was published plus relevant American Banknote Company Specimen Material)
 - * Canal Zone Counterfeits (Richard Bates)
 - * First Issue Cover Census (Richard Salz)
 - * U.S. Navy Slogan Cancels (Robert Karrer; possible update of first edition that may be made available on computer disk or as a photocopy)
- And finally there are themes that are undeveloped, though in some cases the probable author is indicated.
- * Money Orders and the M.O.B. (James E. Noll)
 - * Special Delivery Usage from the Canal Zone (Gary Weiss?)
 - * Railway Post Offices (?; an inquiry has been received from the Mobile Post Office Society seeking an individual interested in developing a monograph on U.S. Railway Post Office markings used in the Canal Zone, including the railroad and boat markings that have RPO in the CDS; to be workable this must expand considerably on the material in Entwistle's *Postal Markings of the Canal Zone* handbook)
 - * A Compilation of Library Reference Materials on Canal Zone Philately (?)

I would be very happy to hear from any member who wishes to take on a project that would lead to a handbook, either on a topic listed above or of the prospective author's choosing.

Bliss Postage Due...

(continued from page 21)

forerunners were created by Postmaster Gerald D. Bliss of the Pedro Miguel Post Office. They have been reported in use from 1907 to 1910. The type numbers assigned here are based upon the chronology of their usage:

Type I is previously unlisted and was prepared from the informational marking that had been used to cancel stamps.

Type II corresponds to Entwistle² #PrPD-2, also Plass³ Type B.

Type III corresponds to Entwistle #PrPD-1, also Plass Type A.

The informational markings associated with Types I and II have been found on covers dated 1907, while Type III has been found dated 1908 and later. All of the covers in this study are addressed to recipients in Pedro Miguel.

At first, Bliss dispensed the mail at the general delivery window and used a standard issue rubber postage due rating device to cancel the postage stamps on cover when the postage due fee(s) were paid, a common practice employed in the U.S. on shortpaid or unpaid mail. This informational marking (Fig. 1) measures 4.5 mm high by 55 mm long, reading POSTAGE DUE.....CENTS



Fig. 1. Pedro Miguel Postage Due Marking on Used Single.

all upper case, with 12 dots. The marking was applied in a random fashion tying the stamp to the envelope (Fig. 2) and has been noted on covers and on used stamps with multiple horizontal, diagonal, and inverted strikes. While these are not considered Bliss Provisionals, they are precursors which helped institute the BPPD.

Later, the idea must have occurred to Bliss that time could be saved on those days the mail arrived by handstamping

various postage stamp denominations Postage Due in advance. He could apply these provisional postage due stamps as receipts to each envelope at the mail pickup window after the fee had been paid.

It has been pointed out (by David Herendeen) that there is ample world-wide precedent to name these "provisionals". Provisional postage dues from New Caledonia (Scott #43, 45, 47, 49, 50, and 52) and Mauritania's first definitive set were created by the application of a "T" in triangle marking. As recently as 1959, Rhodesia-Nyassaland converted two of its stamps (Scott #159 and 160) into provisional dues by applying a "postage due" (similar to Bliss') handstamp. Apparently the acid test for classification hinges upon the use of a marking to create the postage due stamp by transforming regular stamps into dues through an overprint.

Type I (Fig. 3) measures 4.5 mm high by 28 mm long, the POSTAGE DUE having been applied diagonally to the stamps, reading up from left to right. The rubber stamp appears to be a trimmed version of the informational marking with most of the dots removed. Of the



Fig. 3. Bliss Type I, Mint Singles, on #23 and #24.

(Continued on page 24)

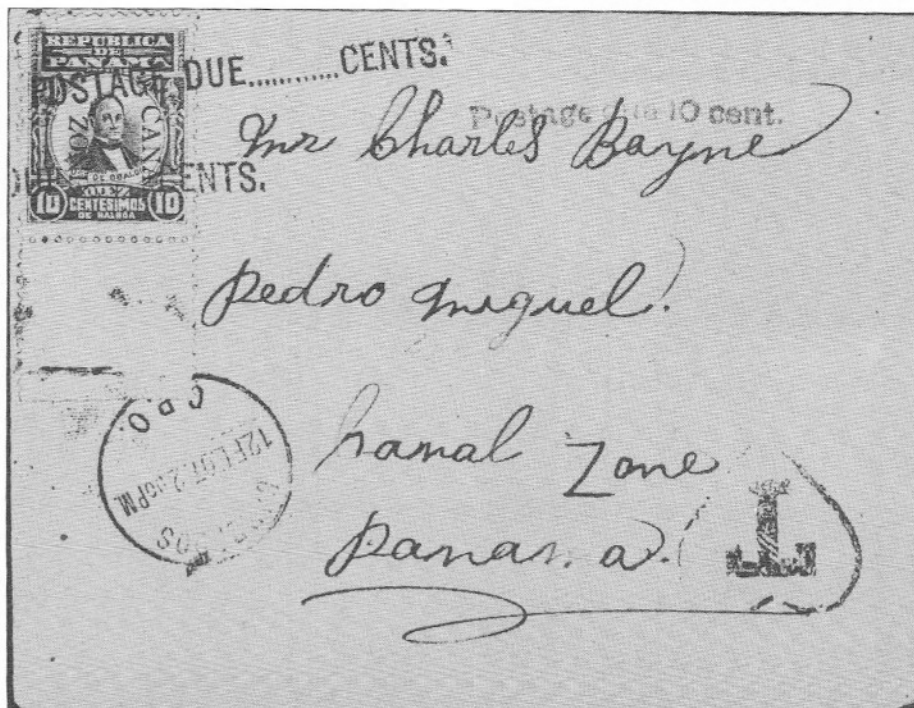


Fig. 2. Pedro Miguel Postage Due Cover, February 1907.

Bliss Postage Due...

(continued from page 23)

four stamps reported, three have full gum. It is reported that throughout the usage of postage due stamps once the stamps were overprinted or canceled they could be placed on the envelope or turned over to the customer as a receipt of payment.

Postmaster Bliss chose the postage due handstamp over a regular cancel because it made its use obvious. He has written¹ that the "auditors have a jaundiced attitude towards giving a Postmaster credit for canceled stamps."

Other Canal Zone postmasters employed other types of cancellation markings² for a similar purpose as well as a variety of "T" (taxe) markings on regular stamps. These will be treated in another article.

No cover with Type I has been reported. But when you factor in rarity plus the few covers known overall, it may yet be



Fig. 5. Bliss Type II, On cover, #22 and #24, deficient 1 1/2d, 6c due, Feb. 1907.



Fig. 4a. Bliss Type II, Mint, on Block of #22 (Editor's Collection).



Fig. 6. Bliss Type III, Mint Single, on #26.

"discovered" residing in some collection, mistakenly identified as Type III.

There is some debate as to the proper terminology for these stamps. The early CZ literature referred to them as provi-

sional postage dues while later writings^{2,3} call them precancels. Based on comment received from review of this manuscript the correct term may be local provisional postage dues.

The Type II (Figs. 4 and 5) marking is distinguished by its capital and lower case boldface lettering, measuring 7.3 mm "caps" and 5.6 mm lower case, for a total length of 31.5 mm. It reads **Postage Due** and has been found with the P of Postage and the E of Due overlapping adjacent stamps. The precancel was applied diagonally to each stamp while the stamps were in a full pane. A block of 4 of Type II on the 1c (Scott #22) shows

(Continued on page 25)



Fig. 4b. Bliss Type II, Mint, Single #26.

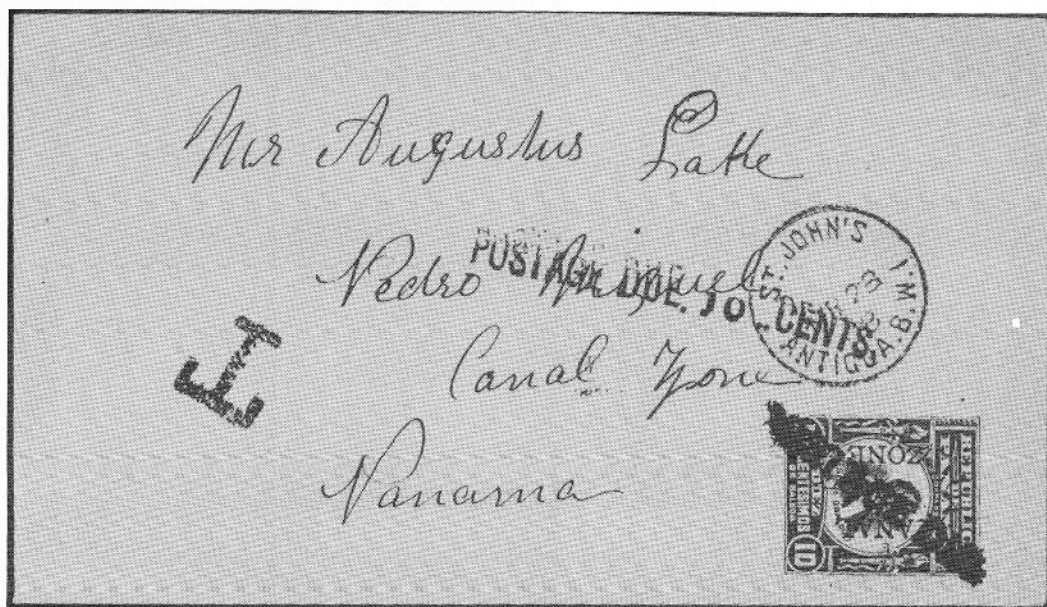


Fig. 7. Bliss Type III, On cover, 10c due, on #26, Antigua, March 1908.

the slight overlap onto adjacent stamps. This is the only multiple reported. Type II appears to be the scarcest of the three types, off or on cover.

The Type III marking (Fig. 6) measures 3.8 mm high by 37.5 mm long, and reads POSTAGE DUE. The letters are all boldface upper case as opposed to the thinner letters of Type I. The Type III marking was also applied while stamps were in full pane format; overlapping of the precancel has been noted on many of the copies. Many of the existing examples of Type III are almost illegible because the letters on the rubber stamp appear to have clogged up with dried ink, or the rubber deteriorated. This is the variety most often found on cover (Figs. 7 and 8) or as a used stamp. The cover shown as Fig. 8 is particularly interesting since it also has a strike of Type Ia, improperly marked "10¢". However, the proper rate of 6¢ was the amount collected, as evidenced from the provisional dues.

To gain a greater understanding of the surviving Bliss precancel covers and stamps, I have begun a cover census. If you wish to help in this endeavor, please send a photocopy of your cover(s) and/or stamps to me at PO Box 9157, Bardonia, NY 10954, or if you wish anonymity you may send them to the CZSG Secretary or President, who will forward the information to me.

The cover census at present, with five collectors reporting, is: Informational marking (2); Type I (0); Type II (2); Type III (4).

Discussion with Richard H. Salz and Gary B. Weiss and critical reviews by James P. Gough, David Herendeen, and the Editor are gratefully acknowledged. I welcome all correspondence pertaining to postage dues and post office seals and look forward to sharing information with you.

References:

1. Bliss, Gerald D., "Canal Zone 'Bliss Provisionals'", *Stamps*, June 11, 1949. See also

Ardiff, Vernon LeYoung, "Canal Zone Precancels 1906-8 Postage Due", *Mekeels*, February 26, 1940.

Bliss, Gerald D., "Letter to Burger & Co." (February 28, 1908), *Canal Zone Philatelist*, 100:23.

2. Entwistle, Lawson P., *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone*, Canal Zone Study Group, 1992, p.110.

3. Plass, Gilbert N., Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, "Canal Zone Stamps", Canal Zone Study Group, 1986, pp.230-231.

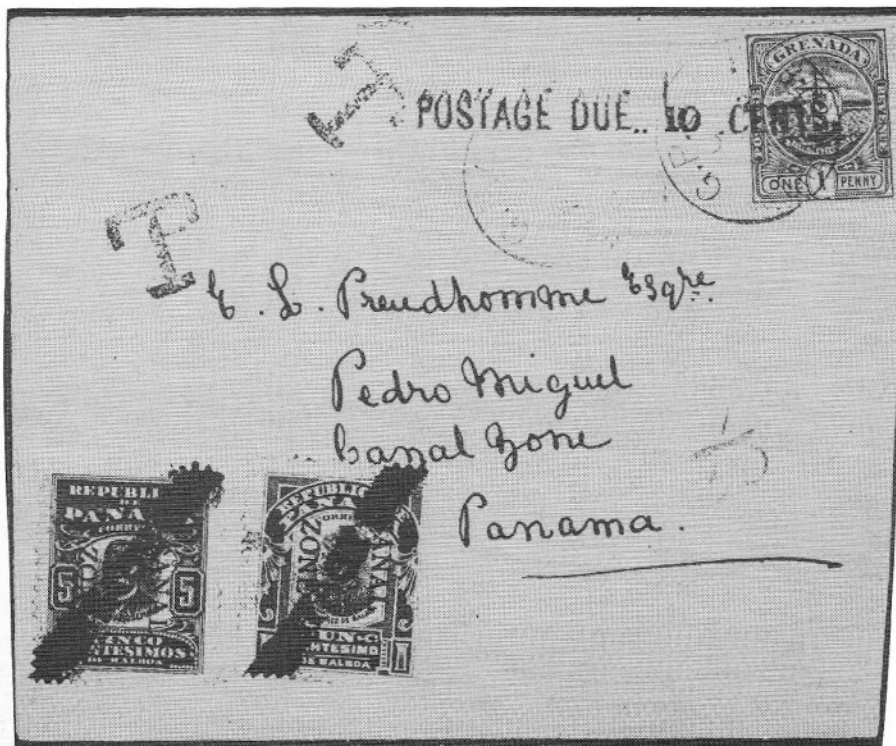


Fig. 8. Bliss Type III, On cover, 1d partial franking; deficient 1/2d (the 10¢ is altered to 6¢ in manuscript), on #22 and #24, Grenada.

75th Anniversary Cachets Offered

CZSG Member Peter Copeskey was on duty on the Zone in August 1989 at the time of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. He prepared a cachet (see illustration) and a number of covers, all cancelled at Albrook Air Force Base, APO 34002. Meanwhile, in his "change of stations" around the world the box of

covers travelled more than the ships on the stamps franking them. The franking is singles of the five varieties of the 25¢ steamboat booklet stamp. Peter will share these with CZSG members. Send a #10 SASE and \$1 each for covers wanted. Address: Peter Copeskey, 1017 Leininger Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208.



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American Bank Note Company Specimens: Pictorial Issues

by David J. Leeds, James W. Crumpacker, and Gary B. Weiss

American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) Archive Specimens of the Canal Zone were introduced in a previous issue of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, 115:9/13. This, the first of many articles detailing the specimens, describes the Canal Zone specimens of the Panama National Exposition pictorial issues of 1915 as well as the higher value definitives issued later, Scott #42-45 (Figs. 1-4), #49-51 (Figs. 5-7), and #58-59 (Figs. 8-9). This grouping was selected in part because of its relative simplicity. While there was no important new information about the stamps, the plate positions of several varieties are now known. There was also little variety in the specimen overprints because of the single printing of these issues. However, other series are quite complex.

The stamps are as described in the Christie's sale of September 12, 1990, Lots 15-20 and 40-42. The catalogue illustrates some of these stamps in large blocks, with the 50c and B/1 shown in full color.

Information from the ABNCo Index Cards for the Canal Zone (Lot 8) was not available for this article, but one of the cards (Scott #44) was illustrated in the auction catalog and others are shown in the previously referenced Helme article.

The "SPECIMEN" overprints are all capitals, sans-serif, red, and with dimensions as shown in Table 1.

There were two F (foreign) order numbers (F#s) for the stamps of the 1915 set, one for the three special request denominations, and one for the two high values. The printed marginal markings are partially described in *Canal Zone Stamps (CZS)*. Red handstamped F#s are found only on the selva of the archive specimen sheets. (See Figs. 2 & 7.) The engraved F#s are shown in Figs. 1, 5 & 6.

The specimen sheets confirm the previously described 200 subject layout printer's sheet of the first four denominations, and 100 layout of the other denominations. Identification of the position of the pane (top or bottom) is ascertained by examination of the pane margins (selva). The upper pane of the 200 subject layout has a narrow bottom selva, the lower pane a narrow top selva. The 100 layout sheets have wide margins on all sides. It is not known why different layouts were used for the later orders; printing quality is excellent for both formats. It may be in response to the high cost of plate preparation or the smaller quantities required for the higher denominations. Wear on the plates would be the same although printing a smaller quantity in the small format would take longer press time but use a smaller press.

Condition varies from superb to off-centered, scotch taped, and with missing fragments of the sheets. Table 1 is a detailed listing of the specimens in the format of the checklist in *CZS*.

General Notes for Table 1:

Quantities do not reflect the number destroyed (or to be destroyed) because of tape or other damage. The actual quantity going into philatelic hands may be less than indicated and will be revised later.

The underlined lettered panes usually have a boxed, dated, purple handstamp "Return to RECORD & SPECIMEN DEPT" (Fig. 1). A few, as indicated in the notes below, are hand stamped "Return to ISSUE ROOM..." (Fig. 6 and CZP 115:12, Fig. 6).

Varieties have been assigned proposed CZSG numbers. It is hoped that our basic listing will be adopted by Scott



Fig. 1. ABNCo Specimen CZ 42S. Frame F#, "Record & Specimen Dept" handstamp, Pos. 10, 20, 30.



Fig. 2. ABNCo Specimen CZ 43S. Red handstamped F#, Pos. 4.

when they list the specimens. In the following specific notes for each denomination, the new proposed listings are indicated by quotation marks; the numbers in parenthesis indicate the possible quantity.

Notes 1 through 4:

F#s are also engraved on the plates so are printed in the same color as the finished stamp (Figs. 1 & 5). Engraved F#s were observed in both printed colors on the 1c, 2c, and 5c stamps. On the 10c sheet only the black (vignette) number was found on the selva. The orange (frame) F# was not found.

F# 4243 includes Panama and Canal Zone 1c, 5c, and 10c.

F# 4244 includes the Panama 1/2c, 2 1/2c, and 3c denominations, and both Panama and Canal Zone 2c. Details of the split printing orders are not known. The ABNCo Index Cards for the Canal Zone (Christie's Lot 8) are not available to this study. They should also contain

Table 1: 1915/1920 Pictorial Series

Denom	Scott	CZSG#	Sheets	Qty	Red F#	Date	Specimen	C/Z Spacing	Note
1c	42	"42S"	3 (A,B,C)	293	F4243	Jun 19'14	13.8mm	9.1-9.3	(1)
2c	43	"43S"	3 (A,B,C)	294	F4244	Jun 19'14	13.8mm	9.1-9.3	(2)
5c	44	"44S"	3 (A,B,C)	294	F4243	Jun 19'14	13.8mm	9.1-9.3	(3)
10c	45	"45S"	3 (A,B,C)	294	F4243	Jun 19'14	13.8mm	9.1-9.3	(4)
12c	49	"49S"	3 (A,B,C)	300	F5082	Oct 24'16	14.2mm	11.1-11.4	(5)
15c	50	"50S"	3 (A,B,C)	300	F5082	Oct 24'16	14.2mm	11.1-11.4	(6)
24c	51	"51S"	3 (A,B,C)	295	F5082	Oct 24'16	14.2mm	11.1-11.4	(7)
50c	58	"58S"	3 (A,B,C)	262	F6272	Mar 22'20	15.3mm	9.4-9.5	(8)
B/1	59	"59S"	3 (A,B,C)	263	F6272	Mar 22'20	15.3mm	9.4-9.5	(9)

much useful information.

These four values have been described as having a spacing of 9.25mm between CANAL and ZONE. This is correct within a range of ± 0.10 mm. The CANAL ZONE overprint resembles the Type II overprint of the portrait series. We have not determined the relation of the overprint to other issues. It was also used in the same arrangement on the 1c 1915 postage due stamp which has the same varieties. The major variety, listed in CZS as 10mm, is found in Position 61 (Fig. 3) but actually measures 9.8mm [CZSG: "42.1S"(3); "43.1S"(3); "44.1S"(3); "45.1S"(3)]. However, a small number of other spacing varieties occur in constant positions on all four values as follows:

9.0mm spacing: Pos. 21, 40, and 86. [CZSG: "42.1aS"(9); "43.1aS"(9); "44.1aS"(9); "45.1aS"(9)].

9.1mm spacing: Pos. 12, 26, 31, 41, 44, 51, 55, 57, 66, and 67. [CZSG: "42.1bS"(30); "43.1bS"(30); "44.1bS"(30); "45.1bS"(30)].

Only the positions that are constant on all four denominations are listed, although several other positions found in only a single pane meet these spacings. Some slight refinement of these measurements may be required as they are rechecked.

Note 1: Panes A and B are both lower panes; pane C is an upper. The consistent varieties on both upper and lower panes indicate that the same plate for the CANAL ZONE overprints was used on both panes rather than overprinting the full 200 layout sheet at the same time. Only one 100 subject overprint was used.

Note 2: Pane A is an upper pane; panes B and C are lower.

Note 3: Pane A is an upper pane; panes B and C are lower.

Note 4: Pane A is an upper pane; panes B and C are lower.

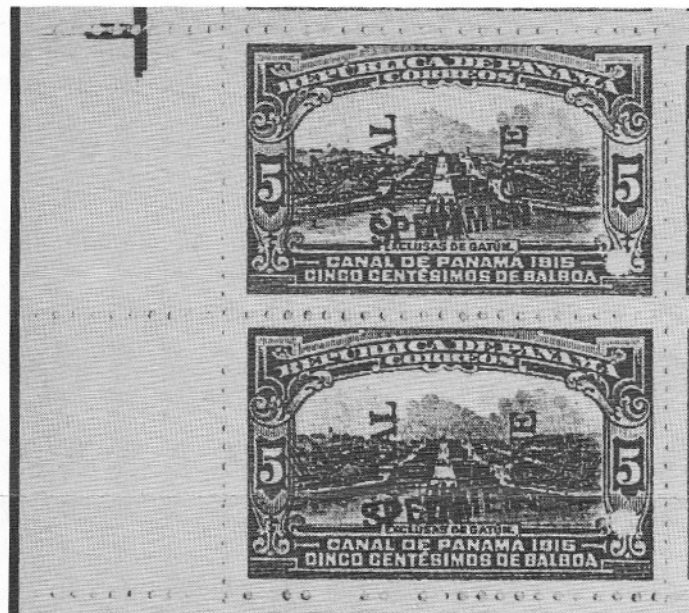


Fig. 3. ABNCo Specimen CZ 44S. 10mm spacing, Pos. 61.



Fig. 4. ABNCo Specimen CZ 45S. Handstamp dated, Pos. 10.



Fig. 5. ABNCo Specimen CZ 49S. Engraved Frame F#, Pos. 1.

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ABNCo Pictorial Issues...

(continued from page 27)

Notes 5 through 7: Spacing between CANAL and ZONE averages 11.25mm \pm 0.15mm. Constant variation on all three denominations are:

11.0mm: Positions 23, 90: [CZSG: "49.1aS"(6); "50.1aS"(6); "51.1aS"(6)].

11.5mm Positions 19, 34 [CZSG: "49.1bS"(6); "50.1bS"(6); "51.1bS"(6)].

F#s are found engraved on the selvaige for both frame and vignette in their respective colors for all three denominations.

Note 6: The SPECIMEN overprint on Sheet C is split on Positions 93/94, intruding into the margins but not the frame of Position 94.

Sheet A has the boxed "RETURN TO ISSUE ROOM..." variety.

Note 7: The SPECIMEN overprint of Sheet A is split on Positions 93/94 and intrudes into the margin but not the frame of Positions 45/55 and 84/94 of Sheet B. It is split on Positions 83/93 on Sheet C.

Notes 8 and 9: Nominal spacing of CANAL and ZONE is 9.4 to 9.5mm. Constant varieties for both denominations are:

9.1mm, Position 23, [CZSG: "58.1aS"(3); "59.1aS"(3)].

9.25-9.3mm, Positions 33, 35, 43, 83 [CZSG: "58.1bS"(12); "59.1bS"(12)]

9.75mm, Position 40, [CZSG: "58.1cS"(3); "59.1cS"(3)].

10mm, Position 94, (Fig. 9), [CZSG: "58.1dS"(3); "59.1dS"(2)].

The position of the 10mm spacing variety was not previously known although the quantities had been predicted. The other spacings had not been recognized as constant varieties.

While the handstamped red F# 6272 is the same for both denominations, there is an anomaly on the 50c sheet. There the engraved F# for the black vignette is 6267, the orange frame is 6272. This is illustrated as Lot 42 of the auction catalogue, and is barely visible in one of the closely trimmed specimen sheets. The basic Panama also show the two different F numbers. The authors have no explanation for this anomaly other than a pure typographical error by the engravers. The engraver's work order is F6272 (replacing a crossed out F6273). The B/1 carries the same F# 6272 for both frame and vignette, with the color difference imperceptible.

(Continued on page 29)



Fig. 6. ABNCo Specimen CZ 50S. Engraved Vignette F#, Pos. 9-10.



Fig. 7. ABNCo Specimen CZ 51S. Red handstamped F#.



Fig. 8. ABNCo Specimen CZ 58S. (Perfs not visible against white background.)



Fig. 9. ABNCo Specimen CZ 59S. 10mm spacing, Pos. 94. Note multiple centerline "T" at Pos. 95.

Note 9:

Sheet A: SPECIMEN double: Position 19
SPECIMEN double or kiss: Position 88.
Sheet C: SPECIMEN overprint intrudes
from Position 94 into the margin but not
the frame of Position 84.

Future issues of CZP will continue
discussion of the ABNC specimen stamps.
Comment from readers is requested,
especially information to supplement
that included in these articles so that the
final monograph will be as complete and
accurate as possible.

Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

The Case Against the General: Manuel Noriega and the Politics of American Justice by Steve Albert (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1993) (ISBN 0-684-19375-2), 456 pages + 8 unnumbered glossy pages containing 15 photographs, \$25.00.

The book presents yet another angle on the last 15 years of U.S.-Panamanian relations. It describes the indictment and trial of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from the prosecution and defense viewpoints. The U.S. government claimed that there was a conspiracy from 1981 through 1986 in which General Noriega used his positions in the Panamanian government to make Panama a base for drug trafficking and money laundering, involving the United States and Colombia. Allegedly, he was paid large sums of money so that Panama could be used as a trans-shipment area and money laundering center, among other activities.

The give and take in the courtroom during Noriega's trial is shown with many quotes. One side would have a witness give devastating testimony, so that the reader might think that the tide had turned in the side's favor. Then, in the cross examination the witness might be totally neutralized and the tide would seem to turn the other way. So, even though most readers will know the outcome at least approximately, there is still a lot of suspense in the book.

When General Noriega was indicted by a federal court in Miami, he was the "strong man" in Panama. At that time, as Albert describes, the U.S. government had only the testimony of individuals who were involved with the drug trade. Prosecutors were worried that if Noriega were to be arrested, he would hold many cards. He could claim that the indictment and prosecution were politically motivated, used greymail (which is like blackmail but the defendant indicates sensitive or classified information that will be released during a trial, and in his defense he could request such documents), say that he is the head of state of a sovereign country and therefore immune from a U.S. court proceeding and point out that

he had been very helpful to the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and other agencies of the United States, helping virtually every time he was asked.

The book then describes the taking of Panama and Noriega and the many months delay until the trial began in September 1991. All the cards described above were played by Noriega's defense team. The case for the prosecution had some other problems. There was a lot of potential testimony but almost no physical evidence. Even when the invasion and the U.S. obtained tons of material — seemingly anything it wanted in Panama — there was still little hard evidence. There were questions about the legality of taking evidence out of Panama as a result of the invasion without the usual search warrant. The evidence's integrity was a problem for the government case. Looters, American soldiers, and agents of security agencies of the U.S. had first pick on some of the material. Also, the legality of the capture of a head of a sovereign state and bringing him to the victor's country to be tried is unprecedented in modern times. Noriega claimed he was a prisoner of war. It is interesting that the prosecution and court said OK you are but we can still try you, and did.

Albert describes the uphill battle of the defense as well. The United States gave \$1.5 million, reduced prison sentences, and other considerations to witnesses, many of whom were convicted criminals in prison. The U.S. had frozen all Noriega's assets worldwide so that he was destitute. The government and a battery of lawyers and investigators, Noriega had few. Pressure was exerted by the government on all parties — Noriega was not even allowed to see his wife until a few days before the trial began. There were other issues that the defense lawyers had to face. Noriega's phone conversations from jail were taped and fell into the prosecution's hands and some were broadcast by CNN, the defense's complete list of witnesses was given to the U.S. government through an apparent mistake of the federal marshal service, and a defense lawyer was a government informant in another case. Besides these, so-called political evidence could not be used in Noriega's defense to show, for example, the big picture of the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan fighting and arms deals involving the U.S. and Noriega's cooperation with the United States. Of course, Noriega was stripped of all his files by the invading U.S. military. It is interesting that whereas the prosecution used many criminals as witnesses, the defense used many U.S. government officials.

Albert uses contemporaneous conversations and courtroom quotes. The participants speak best and give the truest impression of actual events.

The book not only reports history but may affect it. The Associated Press ran a story in February 1994 saying that the defense was seeking a new trial based upon revelations in this book concerning the jury's deliberations.

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Auctions

by Jim Crumacker

This report presents results of auctions from the second quarter, April 1 through June 30, 1995. Offerings were much better than average for the season with scarce plate blocks and unlisted proofs as the highlights, and commensurate prices were realized.

The catalogue value from Scott's Specialized 1995 is given in parenthesis following the selling price shown; any commission is included. Keep in mind that Scott's prices before #118 are for hinged material.

- 2 var., colon between right PANAMA and bar, in margin bl. 4 with 3 normals, TG, H, F-VF \$748 (\$1050) Wolffers
- 4, pl. bl. of 6 with imprint, OG, NH, VF \$1100 (\$875) Shreve's
- 7, pl. bl. of 6 with imprint, OG (natural gum crease), 5 stamps NH, F+-VF \$1760 (\$2000) Shreve's
- 14d, CANAL antique, red brown PANAMA overprint, in bl. 8 with 7 normals, TG, H, F-VF \$1208 (\$2363) Wolffers
- 15, TG, H, F-VF (CZSG 15.7 two PANAMAs close together) \$1375 (\$2400) Drews
- 24c, double overprint, OG, H, XF \$506 (\$400) Paradise Valley
- 36b, "10cts." omitted, OG, H, F-VF \$184 (\$250) Ivy & Mader
- 39c, booklet pane of 6, OG, H, F-VF \$242 (\$600) Weiss
- 39e, inverted center and inverted overprint, OG, NH, VF \$920 (\$850) Ivy & Mader
- 46, margin bl. of 4, OG, 3 stamps NH, F-VF \$460 (\$725) Christie's
- 46, on ppc 8/1/21 Balboa to USA, F \$149 (\$150) Newman
- 46b, double overprint, TG, H, F \$149 (\$275) Drews
- 54, OG, H, F \$86 (\$200) Superior
- 56a, double overprint, OG, NH, F-VF margin copy \$396 (\$500) Paradise Valley
- 58, OG, H, F-VF \$99 (\$250) Weiss
- 66, OG, H, VF \$94 (\$135) Weiss
- A34, Unissued Arms 10¢ (CZSG 69.B), TG, H, F \$275 (\$250) Aldrich
- 71d, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, F \$173 (\$450) Ivy & Mader
- 80, plate bl. of 6, OG, NH, F-VF \$1760 (\$1750) Shreve's
- 81, top margin pl. bl. of 6, OG, H, F-VF \$3575 (\$4000) Shreve's
- 85a, ZONE ZONE overprint, glazed OG, H, F in bl. 9 with 8 normals, \$330 (\$530) Drews
- 95, OG, H, VF \$77 (\$125) Aldrich
- 95, pl. bl. of 6, OG, H, F-VF \$1760 (\$1600) Shreve's

- 97b, booklet pane of 6, OG (natural skips), NH, F-VF \$484 (\$650) Paradise Valley
- J13, OG, NH, VF+ \$187 (\$60) Aldrich
- J15, pl. bl. of 6, used, F \$176 (\$n/a) Drews
- J17a, POSTAGE DUE double, TG, H, F \$209 (\$450) Kelleher
- J17b, E of POSTAGE omitted, in pair with normal, TG, H, F \$275 (\$450) Kelleher
- CO8, CTO, OG, H, F-VF \$88 (\$150) Drews
- CO14a, inverted overprint, CTO, OG (natural gum creases), H, F-VF \$1668 (\$2500) Ivy & Mader
- O3, unused, NG, SE, light creases, o/w F-VF \$316 (\$n/a) Superior
- UX5, used, Cristobal 1922 to USA, F-VF \$198 (\$400) Drews
- 106TC, 2¢ black die proof, 32mm x 39mm, wove, VF \$1540 (\$n/a) Weiss
- 128Pl, large die proof, XF \$1045 (\$1000) Schiff
- C20Pl, large die proof, XF \$1320 (\$n/a) Schiff

The addresses of the various auction firms are shown below. Please mention CZP when requesting catalogues.

Michael E. Aldrich Auctions
P.O. Box 130484
Saint Paul, MN 55113

Christie's
502 Park Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Richard E. Drews Auctions
7139 W. Higgins
Chicago, IL 60656

Ivy & Mader
32 E. 57th St.
11th Floor
New York, NY 10022-2513

Daniel F. Kelleher Co., Inc.
24 Farnsworth St.
Suite 605
Boston, MA 02210

Lowell S. Newman & Co.
1500 Harbor Blvd.
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Paradise Valley Stamp Co.
P.O. Box 8948
Scottsdale, AZ 85252-8948

Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc.
195 Main St.
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660-1696

Shreve's Philatelic Galleries, Inc.
14131 Midway Rd., Suite 1250
Dallas, TX 75244-9984

Superior Stamp & Coin
9478 West Olympic Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90212-4299

Weiss Philatelics
P.O. Box 5358
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Richard Wolffers Auctions, Inc.
133 Kearny St.
Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94108

APS STaMpsHOW '95

A CZSG meeting was held August 25, 1995, at APS STaMpsHOW '95 in St. Louis, Missouri. Sixteen members and two guests were present.

The meeting began with a short introduction by Secretary John Smith. Then the first speaker, Dr. Gary Weiss, was introduced. Gary's presentation was on Canal Zone Special Delivery Air Mail usage from the Zone. He passed around a color copy of his ARIPEX award winning 1-frame exhibit showing many different examples of the use of both U.S. special delivery stamps and overprinted Canal Zone air mail stamps.

Next to speak was our Editor, David Leeds, with a presentation of the incredible American Bank Note Company Specimen stamps and stationery, currently being highlighted in this journal. David complemented his talk with a slide show.

After the presentations the meeting was open for questions, comments, and show and tell, including the sharing of materials found at the stamp show. A very nice gesture was made by Peter Copeskey, who offered free copies of his hitherto unreported 75th Anniversary cachet to the members attending. See elsewhere in this issue for more information on this cachet. Thank you Peter, you made a fun day end perfectly!

John Smith

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